1 CLAIMS

2 We claim:

3 1. A computer-implemented method of annotating pages of an electronic document

4 independently of the contents of the document, comprising the steps of:

5 (1) displaying a page of the electronic document on a computer display device

6 using a document browser that permits a user to move forward and backward among a

7 plurality of document pages;

8 (2) selecting an annotation mode that permits the user to annotate the currently

9 displayed document page;

10 (3) annotating parts of the currently displayed page by moving a user input device

11 to indicate where on the currently displayed document page the annotations should appear;

12 and

13 (4) storing annotations made in step (3) in a data structure separate from the

14 electronic document.

15 2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the

16 step of using opaque markings that obscure portions of the currently displayed document

17 page.

18 3. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the

19 step of using a translucent highlighting that does not completely obscure the annotated

20 portions of the currently displayed document page.

21 4. The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein step (3) comprises the

22 step of blending pixels from the currently displayed document with a translucent color to

23 produce a translucent annotation.

24 5. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the

25 step of using an erase highlighting that erases previously annotated areas of the currently

26 displayed document page.

27 6. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the

28 step of using a stylus with a tablet computer system.

29 7. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the

30 step of storing a separate stroke for each annotation, wherein each stroke corresponds to a

1   continuous set of movement when the user input device is activated.

2   8. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

3   (5) moving to a different document page;

4   (6) retrieving previously stored annotations associated with the different document

5   page; and

6   (7) displaying the retrieved annotations on the computer display device

7   superimposed over the different document page.

8   9. The computer-implemented method of claim 8, wherein step (6) comprises the

9   step of detecting a title change event in the document browser and, in response thereto,

10   locating an annotation file corresponding to the different document page.

11   10. A system for annotating electronic documents independently of the content of

12   the documents comprising:

13   a computer display device;

14   a computer programmed with a document browser that permits a user to display an

15   electronic document on the computer display device and to move forward and backward

16   among a plurality of document pages;

17   a computer input device that permits the user to indicate portions of a currently

18   displayed document page; and

19   computer software that permits the user to annotate parts of the currently displayed

20   document page according to indicated portions of the currently displayed document,

21   wherein the computer software displays the annotated parts of the currently displayed

22   document page on the computer display device and stores annotations made by the user in

23   a data structure separate from the currently displayed document page.

24   11. The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores

25   opaque annotations that obscure annotated portions of the currently displayed document

26   page.

27   12. The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores

28   translucent highlight annotations that do not completely obscure annotated portions of the

29   currently displayed document page.

30   13. The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores

1   erased annotations that remove previously made annotations on the currently displayed

2   document page.

3   14. The system of claim 10, wherein the computer display device comprises a flat

4   panel display, and wherein the computer input device comprises a stylus.

5   15. The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software retrieves, upon

6   detecting a title change event, previously stored annotations associated with a different

7   document page and displays the previously stored annotations on the different document

8   page.

9   16. A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-executable

10 instructions for performing steps comprising:

11   (1) displaying an electronic document page on a computer display device and

12 permitting a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

13   (2) annotating parts of a currently displayed page in accordance with movement of

14 a user input device to indicate where on the currently displayed document page the

15 annotations should appear; and

16   (3) storing annotations made in step (2) in a data structure separate from the

17 electronic document.

18   17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-

19 executable instructions for step (2) further comprise instructions for creating an opaque

20 annotation that obscures annotated portions of the currently displayed document.

21   18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-

22 executable instructions for step (2) further comprise instructions for creating a translucent

23 annotation that does not completely obscure annotations portions of the currently displayed

24 document, wherein the translucent annotation is generated by blending pixels from the

25 currently displayed document with a highlighting pixel color.

26   19. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-

27 executable instructions for step (2) further comprise instructions for erasing portions of

28 previously created annotations.

29   20. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-

30 readable instructions further include steps for:

1   (4) in response to detecting that the user has moved to a different document page,

2 retrieving previously stored annotations associated with the different document page; and

3   (5) displaying the annotations retrieved in step (4) on the different document page.

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